

Serial No. 10/749,463

Group Art Unit: 1733

REMARKS

This Response is in reply to the Office Action mailed on January 26, 2006. Claim 1 is currently amended. Claim 2 is cancelled, and claims 13-20 are added. Claims 1, 3-7, and 13-20 are currently pending. No additional claim fees are due, as three independent claims and fourteen total claims are pending.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1 and 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by the state of the art as exemplified in Klein et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,779,762), Price et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,396,529) and Wydro et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,405,063). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 is currently amended to incorporate the subject matter claimed in former claim 2, now cancelled. Applicants note that former claim 2 was found to include allowable subject matter, but was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants assert the allowability of independent claim 1 as currently presented, and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1.

Claims 3-7 are dependent upon claim 1, and therefore inherit all of the limitations therefrom. Applicants assert the allowability of these claims as well. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3-7.

Allowability of Added Claims

Claims 13-20 have been added in the present Response. Applicants note that independent claims 13 and 17 contain subject matter found allowable in the Office Action of January 26, 2006. Specifically, Applicants note that new claim 13 incorporates all of the limitations of former claims 1 and 3. Likewise, new claim 17 incorporates all of the limitations of former claims 1 and 4. Applicants therefore request allowance of these claims as well.

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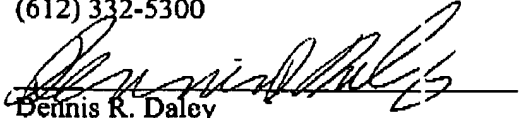
Conclusion

In view of the above Remarks and claim amendments, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 24, 2006


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